

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 CU-04 HEW-06

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R 140600Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1212

UNCLAS JIDDA 3388

FOR ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: USSAEC, SA, US
SUBJECT: JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION: FUTURE VISITS BY USG PERSONNEL

REF: PARIS 12000

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD IN REFTEL THAT EDUCATION EVALUATION TEAM WILL ARRIVE IN RIYADH ON MAY 13 DESPITE REPEATED EMBASSYCABLES STATING THAT POSTPONEMENT WAS NECESSARY. THE TEAM HAS ALSO CHOSEN TO IGNORE OUR REQUEST THAT IT ARRIVE IN JIDDA FOR CONSULTATION BEFORE PROCEEDING TO RIYADH.

2. THE ISSUE HERE IS MORE THAN JUST ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. IT IS ALSO MORE THAN JUST THE EMBASSY'S PREREGATIVES IN THE FIELD. WE HAVE STRESSED THAT THE EMBASSY MUST AND WILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO REVIEW PROJECT PROPOSALS BEFORE THEY ARE PRESENTED TO THE SAUDIS. WHEN THE JOINT COMMISSION OFFICE IS ESTABLISHED IN RIYADH, THE EMBASSY WILL REVIEW FORMAL PROPOSALS BEFORE THEY ARE SUBMITTED TO WASHINGTON. TREASURY AND STATE HAVE AGREED TO THIS UNDERSTANDING. IT IS TOTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH THIS AGREEMENT FOR TEAMS TO COME DIRECTLY INTO RIYADH WITHOUT EMBASSY APPROVAL AND WITHOUT CONSULTATION IN JIDDA.

3. IN THIS CASE THERE WAS NO REASON WHY TEAM'S ARRIVAL HAD TO BE FIXED ON MAY 13. APPOINTMENTS IN PARIS SHOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT HAVE BEEN MADE PRIOR TO AN ACCEPTABLE ETA IN SAUDI

ARABIA. THE VARIOUS AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE UPCOMING VISIT FOR LONG ENOUGH TO PERMIT PROPER ADVANCE PLANNING.

4. THE SAUDIS HAVE RECEIVED CONFLICTIN AND CONFUSING REPORTS OF THIS TEAM'S ETA. THE TEAM'S CHANCES OF SUCCESS WILL BE MATERIALLY LESSENED AND OUR JOINT EFFORTS IN THE FUTURE CONSIDERABLY HANDICAPPED. PERHAPS MORE DAMAGINGHIS THE FACT THAT OUR ABILITY TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR SAUDI COUNTERPARTS, ESPECIALLY WITH THE SAUDI COORDINATOR OF THE JOINTHCOMMISSION, HAS BEEN IMPAIRED.

5. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT IMPRESS ON TREASURY THAT NO REPEAT NO TEAMS OR EXPERTS WILL COME TO SAUDI ARABIA WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE EMBASSY. WE HAVE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR APPROPRIATE PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN ADVANCE, AND HAVE STATED THE MINIMUM TIME NEEDED IS 14 DAYS BETWEEN EMBASSY APPROVAL AND ARRIVAL OF TEAM. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY POINTED OUT OUR PROBLEMS DUE TO LIMITED STAFF, THE SEPARATION BETWEEN RIYADH AND JIDDA, AND CRUCIAL SHORT- AGES IN HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION.

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO REPEAT IN CLEAR AND UNMISTAKABLE TERMS TO TREASURY AND OTHER AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON THAT THE EMBASSY MUST APPROVE TEAM VISITS, AND MUST APPROVE THE TIMING OF THOSE VISITS.

AKINS

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